

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 02795 061322Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 NIC-01 /095 W

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R 060752Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6929

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 2795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PT, ID, PO

SUBJ: GOVERNOR OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR PROTESTS

INDONESIAN PROPAGANDA ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A. JAKARTA 2285

B. JAKARTA 2484

C. JAKARTA 2726

SUMMARY: ACCORDING AFP STORY DATELINED DILI MARCH 4 CARRIED IN MARCH 6 INDONESIAN OBSERVER, GOVERNOR OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR, COL. LEMOS PIRES, HAS PROTESTED FALSE PROPAGANDA IN OFFICIAL GOI NEWS BULLETIN ANTARA ABOUT SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR. HE ALSO CRITICIZED LACK OF COOPERATION AND PRESSURE TACTICS BY PRO-MERGER APODETI PARTY AND INTERFERENCE BY "SOME PEOPLE IN INDONESIA." MAIN POINTS OF AFP STORY AS REPORTED FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. PIRES ANNOUNCED HE HAD ASKED GOP IN LISBON TO PROTEST REPORTS IN ANTARA THAT HE WAS ABETTING A "REIGN OF TERROR" AGAINST ELEMENTS IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR FAVORING MERGER WITH INDONESIA (SEE REFS A, B ON ANTARA STORIES).

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PAGE 02 JAKART 02795 061322Z

HE ADDED HE HAD ALSO WRITTEN LETTER TO GOI CONSUL IN

DILI PROTESTING THESE "UNTRUE AND INOPPORTUNE" CHARGES. HE SAID HE HOPED TO VISIT INDONESIA SOON TO TALK WITH GOI OFFICIALS ABOUT REAL SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR IN TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO LISBON FOR CONSULTATIONS. (NOTE: THIS CONFIRMS STATEMENT BY PORTUGUESE CHARGE IN JAKARTA THAT PIRES WOULD SOON VISIT JAKARTA. SEE REF C.)

2. ACCORDING PIRES, PORTUGAL SEEKS SOLUTION TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR DECOLONIZATION PROBLEM THAT WILL SATISFY BOTH INDONESIA AND ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS IN COLONY INCLUDING PRO-MERGER APODETI. HOWEVER, HE BLAMED APODETI FOR LACK OF COOPERATION AND PROPAGANDA/CAMPAIGN. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT "EXTERNAL INFLUENCE FROM SOME PEOPLE IN INDONESIA" COMPLICATES DECOLONIZATION PROBLEM AND THREATENS RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL.

3. PIRES SAID PLANS FOR DECOLONIZATION OF TIMOR, WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED, CALL FOR ELECTION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN ONE TO TWO YEARS; BUT HE NOTED THAT FRETELIN/UDT (PRO-INDEPENDENCE) COALITION PROPOSES EIGHT YEAR TRANSITIONAL REGIME, WITHOUT ELECTIONS, WHILE APODETI SEEKS IMMEDIATE REFERENDUM TO CONFIRM WHAT IT CLAIMS IS MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR MERGER WITH INDONESIA. INCOMPATIBILITY OF PARTIES' OBJECTIVES MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, HE SAID.

4. PIRES CHARGED THAT APODETI HAS INCITED OR PRESSURED SOME PORTUGUESE TIMORESE TO FLEE TO INDONESIA TO UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE RECEIVED ASSURANCES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT NO SUCH TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN, AND THAT HE OFFERED THOSE WHO HAD FLED CHANCE TO RETURN AND CLEMENCY.

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